

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 A-01 SY-05 USSS-00 SS-15

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O 241320Z APR 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4750

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

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NAIROBI AND DAR FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) OTRA SG

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP: DAKAR: TOUR OF SENEGALESE VILLAGE

REF: STATE 98272

1. PROPOSAL FOR VISIT TO AUTHENTIC SENEGALESE VILLAGE
WITHIN SHORT DRIVING TIME PRESENTS SOME PROBLEMS SINCE
DAKAR IS LOCATED AT TIP OF CAP-VERT PENINSULA, WHICH IS
HEAVILY URBANIZED AND CONTAINS INDUSTRIAL CONCENTRATION
SERVING DAKAR AND SENEGALESE HEARTLAND. ALL VILLAGES IN AREA
TEND TO HAVE AT LEAST PARTIAL "BEDROOM" CHARACTER OF CITY
SUBURB.

2. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES BRIEF VISIT BY SECRETARY
COULD BE ARRANGED TO VILLAGE OF KEUR MASSAR, APPROXIMATELY
20 MILES FROM HOTEL DES ALMADIES (17 MILES FROM DAKAR-YOFF
AIRPORT).

3. KEUR MASSAR IS DUSTY, VERY ORDINARY VILLAGE WITH THATCHED,
CONICAL HOUSES (ALTHOUGH IT IS SERVED BY DAKAR CITY BUSES
AND IS SITE OF COUNTRY HOMES OF SOME GOS POLITICAL LEADERS).
FARMERS IN VILLAGE HAVE BENEFITED FROM WORK OF PEACE CORPS

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VOLUNTEER WHO PROMOTES COMMERCIAL TION OF GARDEN PROUCE.

VILLAGE FARMERS ARE NOW PRODUCING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF BEANS, CHILI PEPPERS, CHERRY TOMATOES AND OTHER CROPS FOR AIR SHIPMENT TO EUROPE, WHERE MARKETING TAKES PLACE UNDER TRADE NAME "SENEGOLD." (ESTIMATED 35 TONS OF BEANS ALONE HAVE BEEN EXPORTED DURING CURRENT SEASON.) AREAS UNDER CULTIVATION BY VILLAGE ARE IN SMALL PLOTS SCATTERED AROUND COUNTRYSIDE, A FEW OF WHICH CAN BE VIEWED FROM TARMAC ROAD LEADING TO VILLAGE FROM MAIN HIGHWAY.

4. DRIVING TIME BETWEEN HOTEL DES ALMADIES AND KEUR MASSAR IS 25 MINUTES. RETURN, IM PART VIA ALTERNATE ROUTE PASSING BY VILLAGE GARDEN PLOTS, WOULD TAKE 5-10 MINUTES LONGER.

5. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INDICATED GOS WOULD HAVE NO RPT NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO SECRETARY'S LEAVING DAKAR FOR VILLAGE VISIT, WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT PROPOSED KEUR MASSAR POSSIBILITY TO PROTOCOL OFFICERS, PENDING CONFIRMATION THAT DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO PURSUE THIS OPTION. ASSUMING THAT GOS APPROVED VISIT, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARRANGE BRIEF PRESENTATION BY VILLAGE DRUMMERS OR OTHER ENTERTAINERS AT KEUR MASSAR. MAXIMUM OF 20-30 MINUTES AT KEUR MASSAR SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO VIEW ANY ENTERTAINMENT, AND VISIT ONE GARDEN PLOT. ENTIRE TRIP FROM HOTEL TO VILLAGE AND BACK TO AIRPORT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ONE HOUR AND HALF. DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL AT 8:00 A.M. MAY 2 WOULD THUS PERMIT 11:00 DEPARTURE AS PROPOSED REFTTEL.

6. EMBASSY IS AWAITING RESPONSE CONCERNING PROPOSED VISIT TO ISLAND OF GOREE AND POSSIBLE MEETING WITH PRESS (DAKAR 2362 AND 2415). WHILE GOREE IS ANTHING BUT TYPICAL, IT IS VERY MUCH AN "AUTHENTIC" AND ACTIVE SENEGALESE VILLAGE OF ATTRACTIVE PINK AND WHITE HOUSES ALONG SHADY STREETS. GOREE ALSO OFFERS ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS 1778 SLAVE HOUSE, HISTORICAL MUSEUM, SEA MUSEUM, AND OTHER IMPORTANT SITES OF SENEGALESE HISTORY, NONE OF WHICH ARE DUPLICATED ELSEWHERE. WHILE GOREE BEARS UNMISTAKABLE MARKS OF ITS CENTURIES OF CONTACT WITH EUROPE, ITS ISLAND SETTING GIVES IT MUCH OF PEACE AND CHARM OF MORE REMOTE VILLAGE.

7. PLEASE ADVISE IF MAY 2 DEPARTURE FROM DAKAR DEFINITELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING RESCHEDULED AND DEPARTMENT WISHES EMBASSY FORMALLY TO PROPOSE KEUR MASSAR VISIT TO GOS.AGGREY

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